(b) how much cotton quota has been given to the State for export purposes;

(c) what are the reasons for offering low prices to the cotton growing farmers in Maharashtra under the Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme of the State Government which led to agitation; and

(d) how the Central Government propose to help the State Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government of Maharashtra have requested for export quota of 4 lakh bales in favour of Maharshtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd.

(b) During the current cotton season, the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation has been allotted 55,000 bales of cotton for export so far.

(c) Under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, the Maharashtra State Coopeartive Cotton Growers Marketing Federation pays guaranteed prices which are at the same level as the minimum support prices fixed by the Government of India. Earlier the Federation was paying guaranteed prices fixed at higer levels than minimum support price level. Hence, the fall in the prices initially paid to the cotton growers in Maharashtra.

(d) The Government of India will release additional cotton quota for export to the State at the appropriate time.

Reopening of Khokrapur rail route in Rajasthan

*90. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was in-depth discussion between India and Pakistan on the issue of reopening of Khokrapur rail route linking Rajasthan with Sind which had been closed more than 20 years ago;

(b) if so, the result of the discussions held; and

(c) whether any follow-up action has since been taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to reopen the rail route has been taken and the draft agreement to be signed for reopening of the Khokrapur-Munabao rail route has been finalised.

(c) The Pakistan Government have been informed that Government is ready to send the Railway delegation to sign the Agreement so that the rail route can be reopened early.

भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा क्षेत्रों से लोगों का अभिगमन

*91. डा० बापू कालदाते :
डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर सेनाओं की तैनाती के बाद भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर उत्पन्न तनाव के कारण भारी संख्या में लोग अन्य स्थानों पर जाने लगे हैं ;